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Amendment to the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 2, line 13 with the following:

In **FIGURE 1**, cable system 100 is shown. Content Encryption Block 104, conditional access management system 108 and television Set-Top Box STB 112 are also shown. Within content encryption block 104 (content encryption block 104 and CA management system 108 are generally located at the cable system headend or content distribution broadcast center) are Simulcrypt™ Synchronizer (SCS) Processor 116 and content encryption block 120. Within the content encryption block 120 are code word generator 124 and encrypt engine 128. Output multiplexer (mux) 132 is the final block within content encryption block 104. Details of the communications interfaces within cable system head end will follow. The interfaces described may be hardware interfaces with direct connections as shown or software interfaces for communication over, for example, a bus structure without limitation.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 2, line 25 with the following:

Within conditional access management system 108 are the content scheduler 136, the event information scheduler (EIS) 140, the subscriber database 144, the ECM generator 148 and the EMM generator 152.

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Please replace the paragraph starting at page 3, line 5 with the following:

Communications between the content encryption block 104 and conditional access management system 108 occurs over the encryption device to conditional access system communications link 172. Conditional access system communications link 172 is composed of several other interfaces, namely access criteria interface 176, code word and access criteria interface 180 and signed ECM interface 184.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 3, line 18 with the following:

Likewise, EMM generator 152 interfaces with subscriber database 144 across subscriber database interface 192 to retrieve information necessary to create EMM messages. ECM

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generator 148 and EMM generator 152 communicate across ECM/EMM interface 196 to communicate information that is necessary for ECM generator 148 to create signed ECM messages. EMM packets are transferred to STB 112 across EMM packet interface 1100 and signed ECM messages are transferred from ECM generator 148 to SCS processor 116 across signed ECM interface 184 to complete the current actions of the conditional access management system 108.

Please replace the first paragraph of page 15 with the following:

Turning now to **FIGURE 2**, an illustrative Default Multi-channel Encryption System (DMES) 200 is shown. This figure builds on **FIGURE 1**, with the addition of default configuration memory 204 which is used to store default encryption information for situations of communication failure between content encryption block 104 and conditional access management system 108. One of the possible multiple conditional access systems within the cable system head end is shown as conditional access management system 108. Conditional access management system 108 is responsible for, among other things, assuring encryption of encrypting the content of each program that is broadcast from the cable system head end using content encryption block 104. Encryption keys and other related, time-varying information is generated in content encryption block 104 as discussed above and in the published DVB specification. Content encryption block 104 behaves as a conditional access encryption management system.

Please replace the paragraph at page 15 line 13 with the following:

As mentioned above, this encryption information is changed periodically, occasionally, or according to any defined schedule so that content encryption block 104 and conditional access management system 108 attempt to remain in communication, subject to the difficulties discussed above, via conditional access system communications link 172.

Please replace the paragraph at page 15, line 13 with the following:

In order to resolve the difficulties associated with a loss or absence of communication

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